

8:30 a.m.

**Reader** The Gospel of Christ.  
**People** Praise be to thee, O Christ.

10 a.m.

**Reader** The Gospel of Christ  
**People** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our refuge and our strength, receive all we offer you this day, and through the death and resurrection of your Son transform us to his likeness. We ask this in his name. Amen

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this holy bread you increase our faith and hope and love. Lead us in the path of Christ who is your Word of life. We ask this in his name. Amen

## READINGS & PRAYERS

### THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 18, 2018

#### COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

*The story of the great flood concludes here with God's covenant with Noah, and all living creatures. Never again would God destroy the world by flood. In ancient times, the rainbow was seen as the weapon of the deity, from which he shot arrows of lightning. Now it was to be a sign and reminder of God's promise.*

#### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all

flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

GENESIS 9:8-17

**Reader** The Word of the Lord  
**People** Thanks be to God

*Writing to Christians enduring persecution, the author reminds them that Christ suffered unjustly, was put to death but now lives in the spirit. The writer speaks of Noah, saved through the flood waters, and of the saving power of the waters of baptism in which we die with Christ, and are raised to new life with him.*

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

I PETER 3:18-22

**Reader** The Word of the Lord  
**People** Thanks be to God

*In this first Lenten gospel, Mark tells, with characteristic brevity, of Jesus' baptism where he is acknowledged as God's beloved Son, of his temptation in the wilderness, and the start of his work of ministry.*

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK

**8:30 a.m.**

**Reader** The Lord be with you.  
**People** And with thy spirit.  
**Reader** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**People** Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**10 a.m.**

**Reader** The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
**Reader** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**People** Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

MARK 1:9-15